

PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MEETING

September 10, 2019

The regular meeting of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board was called to order at the Recreation & Aquatic Center at 7:00am on Tuesday, September 10, 2019. Board Members Joy Phillips, Dana Suiters, Rob Oman, Chairman Dave Schrader and staff liaison Elaine Smith were in attendance.

The August 13, 2019 minutes were unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

- 3D Video Tour Up-date – We had a video tour of the inside of the building (the weather was bad outside the day it was taken), but we will have to share it another time, as the TV is not working. Elaine shared a video from “City of Winterhaven” that included their entire City; the hospital, schools, and downtown to show as an example.
- 2nd Reading of New Park Closing Times/Sims Park – The second reading regarding the proposed new closing times for Sims Park/Orange Lake was postponed to the September 17th meeting, due to Hurricane Dorian. PD would like these well-lit parks to remain open until 11pm (instead of closing at sunset, as the other parks will continue to do).
- Youth Advisory Board/FRPA Volunteer Service Award – The Youth Advisory Board won the State Award for a second time for their outstanding and dedicated volunteer services in the Community. Advisory Board members are invited to attend the City Council meeting on September 17th where they will be recognized, to show your support and see all of the projects they have done.
- Joy brought up as an old business item that the light on the sidewalk of the RAC entrance has been burned out for a month and is a safety issue. Also, the floors at the RAC will be stripped and waxed on September 20th; there was insufficient time to complete the project last month. Public Works is supposed to reset the AC in the building so that the floors dry faster.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Discover (newspaper) featured an article about the RAC, concerts, and other events and amenities. (The newspaper articles were shared with all present.)
- Show NPR Promotional Video – (Unable to show.) We want to do a series showing different parks and their amenities.
- Display Kiosks/Sims & Grey Preserve – As part of the Way-finding Signage project, the existing kiosks are going to be updated.
- Magical Musical Holiday Event/December 21 – The highlight of the event is the performance by the Florida Orchestra at the Community Outreach Church. There will be overflow seating at Orange Lake; the Children’s artwork will be hung along the sidewalks; Santa will be on the boardwalk; a Big Band performance will be held at the Historical Society Gazebo (after the Florida Orchestra), and Mullins Music will provide music in downtown at RR Square. The Christmas Float will be used as a stage for Mullins Music. The Art Gallery will have a Make-and-Take Craft area and the NPR Library will have a booth. We are trying to encourage patrons to eat and shop downtown. The concert at Sims Park at 7pm will feature a Johnny Cash tribute band. Volunteers will be needed in addition to Parks & Recreation staff.
- Haunted House/October 31st/Peace Hall – The downtown merchants will do a Trick or Treat event for the younger children. Older children may go to Peace Hall. Some of the challenges to having it there; providing ADA access, and also escape routes for scared or upset participants within the maze.
- The Advisory Board would like to be updated next month on the Grand Blvd. Park work being done by Public Works and its expected completion date.
- The Advisory Board would like movies on the pool deck. Right now, the deck lights would interfere with screen visibility and there are no pool lights. Perhaps submersible lights would be an option.

SPECIAL EVENTS

- The 9/11 Event will begin at 7pm. Many different City departments are very involved. News Channel 8 will provide news coverage.
- National Drive Electric Week – Other places are holding this event at the same time. We are slated to have electric bicycles, golf carts, cars, etc. The event will be held 10am until 1pm.
- Kids Night Out – Late Night Swim is the theme. We are also tracking if the parents are going to downtown while the children are here.
- Cotee River Clean-up – Jill will be at the Boat Ramp at 7am. All are welcome to volunteer.

- The 1st Concert of the Winter series is October 5th – Turnstiles; a Billy Joel tribute band.

VOX POP

The meeting adjourned at 7:30am.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Marlowe
Secretary

CM:dch